2016 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVES BERTHELOT, BAGLEY, COX, HENSGENS, HOFFMANN, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, LEBAS, MAGEE, DUSTIN MILLER, POPE, AND WILLMOTT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Department of Health and
3	Hospitals to raise awareness of addictive disorders involving abuse of inhalants and
4	to make efforts to reduce the prevalence of inhalant abuse in this state.
5	WHEREAS, the effects of substance abuse disorders can be devastating for families
6	and communities; and
7	WHEREAS, the costs associated with substance abuse disorders are immense, and
8	include financial costs borne directly by the public in areas such as criminal justice and
9	public health, as well as the immeasurable human cost of lives that are lost too soon due to
10	these disorders; and
11	WHEREAS, less well-known than the harms caused by abuse of alcohol, prescription
12	medications, and illegal drugs are the dangers associated with the abuse of inhalants, which
13	are volatile substances that users inhale to induce mind-altering effects; and
14	WHEREAS, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National
15	Institutes of Health, although other abused drugs can be inhaled, the term "inhalant" is
16	reserved for a variety of substances including but not limited to solvents, aerosols, gases, and
17	nitrites that are rarely, if ever, taken by any other route of administration; and
18	WHEREAS, most inhalants are breathed in rapidly through the nose, mouth, or both
19	in a practice known as "huffing"; and
20	WHEREAS, inhalants produce a variety of serious short-term and long-term health
21	effects, and in some cases can be lethal, as high concentrations of these substances can cause
22	death from suffocation, and inhaling the highly concentrated chemicals in solvents or aerosol
23	sprays can also directly cause heart failure within minutes; and

HCR NO. 24 ENROLLED

WHEREAS, gas duster, also known as "canned air" or just "duster", which is designed for cleaning of electronic equipment and other sensitive devices, can be particularly addictive due to the euphoria users feel from the effects of the substance's main chemical compound, difluoroethane (a refrigerant); however, while many users assume that the worst effect of duster is the possibility of passing out for a short time after huffing the substance, there is also a real danger of the user dying almost immediately from acute hypoxia (displacement of oxygen from the lungs) or from cardiac arrest pursuant to actual freezing of lung tissue; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that fifteen to twenty percent of eighth graders - nearly one in every five schoolchildren in this grade - have tried inhalants; and

WHEREAS, the problem of inhalant abuse is of special concern because most substances that can be abused as inhalants are legal and widely available; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute on Drug Abuse cites early identification and intervention as the best ways to stop inhalant abuse before it causes serious health consequences or death; and

WHEREAS, due to the abundance of specialized expertise among staff in the office of behavioral health of the Department of Health and Hospitals, this office is uniquely qualified to lead an effort to raise awareness of the effects of addictive disorders such as abuse of inhalants which can be lethal, but are insufficiently understood currently among the general population of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of behavioral health of the Department of Health and Hospitals to engage in any efforts to raise awareness of addictive disorders involving abuse of inhalants as deemed necessary and proper by the secretary of the department and the assistant secretary of the office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of behavioral health is hereby authorized to conduct public awareness efforts designed to publicize the dangers of inhalants and thereby reduce the prevalence of inhalant abuse in this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such public awareness efforts may include but shall not be limited to public service announcements, information kits and brochures, and provision of information concerning the dangers of inhalant abuse on an internet website.

	HCR NO. 24 ENROLLED
1	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution and its resulting public
2	awareness efforts shall be dedicated to the memory of the late Jordan Lambert Soileau of
3	Denham Springs, Louisiana.
4	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
5	to the family of Jordan Lambert Soileau, the assistant secretary of the office of behavioral
6	health, and the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
	SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE